

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports  
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**Food Safety and Animal Health & ID Programs**

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• **COVID-19 Consultations**

- We are continuing with our collaborative effort with the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon OSHA to support the food supply chain. ODA has been working to leverage our connections and knowledge of business functions to assist industry in the implementation of control practices. Our process adjusted to include limited discussion on the Oregon OSHA temporary rule to make sure business are aware. So far, we have received 534 outbreak notifications, some of which are repeats.

• **Food Safety Routine Inspections**

- The back log of routine inspections that are overdue by 90 days continues to grow as county risk levels fluctuate and move back up. The month of February we did see some reduction in the number of overdue inspections from the previous month but those gains have been lost as county risk levels have risen in March and April. Our current total overdue inspections are approximately 4,700 inspections.

• **FDA contract and Manufactured Foods**

- The pace of conducting FDA contract inspections has increased over the past couple of months and we are approaching the half-way mark for GMP inspections (90 of 200 completed). The complexity of FDA-Preventive Control inspections keeps us at 20% of the goal and managers are working with staff members to exercise every opportunity to conduct the Preventive Control inspections. We continue to use the Risk Based Field Activities Matrix to assist staff members in determining appropriate activities in their areas with two minor changes to promote opportunities for businesses to enter commerce.

In Moderate and Low Risk zones most activities are occurring normally, however counties where there are more licensed establishments inspectional activities are reduced due to the High and Extreme COVID Risk levels. This has slowed the pace of FDA GMP & PC inspections and other retail and food processing establishments designated as high risk.

• **Dairy Program Update**

- We have requested and the FDA approved our 5th 90-day Emergency Consideration waiver, which ends June 17, 2021. The waiver, filed in March 2021, gives us another 90 days of leniency if we miss our dairy requirements such as sampling, pasteurizers testing, and inspection deadlines. Despite the waiver, staff in our dairy program have been able keep up with all routine inspections, including State Rating inspections by following COVID safety precautions.

• **Animal Health**

- The Animal Health program has continued to be busy throughout the winter. In late March, the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed Oregon's first case of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHD) in a sample submitted by ODA from feral domestic rabbit in the Milwaukie area. Since that time, additional cases have also been identified in the La Pine area. RHD is a highly fatal disease that affects only rabbits and hares, often causing over 90% mortality in infected populations.

In response to the detection of RHD in Oregon, ODA filed emergency rules making RHD and Myxomatosis (a disease which appears clinically similar to RHD) reportable diseases, as well as renewing the listing of SARS-CoV-2 in any animal as reportable. Permanent rule making including these diseases is underway.

• **Livestock ID**

- Livestock Identification has started the year with what can be seen as very normal inspection numbers. The shortage of 121,000 inspections in 2020 does not seem to have been held over to 2021 as hoped. Staff continue with day to day tasks being as efficient as possible.

- **Lab Services Update**

- Jim Madden, one of the State Dairy LEOs (Laboratory Evaluation Officer) assisted Washington Dept of Ag with a technical on-site audit of 2 dairy analysts so the Washington Central State IMS laboratory would be able to continue working. The WA lab had lost their certified dairy analysts and were in jeopardy of not being able to process dairy samples in accordance with the PMO.
- State Meat Inspection Program - supplies have been ordered with most received, SOPs in process of review and ODALS approval. Plan to trial methods with mock samples soon.
- Registered for proficiency samples for the methods (Salmonella, Listeria monocytogenes and Ecoli O157 plus 6 other toxin producing strains).
- Food product testing picked up but has since subsided due to recent downgrading to extreme category for many counties.

## **Market Access & Certification Programs**

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- **Agriculture Development and Marketing**

- The Commodity Commission Oversight Program has concluded the (re)appointment of commissioners and notifications will be mailed to all applicants the last week of May. New terms begin July 1.
- ADMP coordinated state meat initiative workgroups have determined that the priority need to support local meat production is management of waste products. ADMP is working with Natural Resources and the OSU Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN) to identify possible solutions.

- **Certification Programs**

- The program continues to increase the number of auditors around the state to assist with high demand for audits and to reduce costs to customers. Protocols were developed to conduct audits during the COVID-19 pandemic and service has not been interrupted.

- **Plant Health Program**

- Discussions are underway to potentially update the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) quarantine boundary due to a new identification of infected tanoak trees north of the Rogue River. Working with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the US Forest Service, the ODA has collected and tested samples from three trees and provided them to USDA APHIS for official confirmation. The ODF and USFS are currently carrying out delimitation and eradication activities at the site. If successful, the boundary could stay at its current location.
- Preparations for the 2021 Field Inspection program are underway. In 2020, 14,717 acres were inspected and we anticipate similar numbers for 2021.

- **Produce Safety**

- Produce Safety Program provides services to the produce industry to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. The program focus is on outreach, education, and technical assistance via its four staff and partnership with five Oregon State University faculty. To date, the Produce Safety team has conducted virtual grower training classes, reaching over 1,000 people.
- 2019 was the first year Produce Safety Rule inspections were conducted across the United States. In Oregon, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducts these inspections. Farms grossing over \$500,000 of produce sales averaged over the last three years were inspected in 2019.
- COVID-19 prevented most routine FDA-led inspections from occurring in Oregon. Fewer than five were conducted in 2020.
- The program has submitted their application to FDA to fund another 5-year cycle of the non-regulatory program.

- **Seed Regulatory Program**

- The program is preparing for an Administrative hearing related to civil penalties issued as a result of its Kentucky 31 investigation. Hearing dates are June 14-18, and 22-23, 2021.

- **Shipping Point Inspection**

- Transportation is an issue however most commodities continue to move at a steady pace.
- Attracting and retaining labor continues to be a challenge for the program.

- COVID-19 cases and exposures continue to be a challenge, however overall business has not been hindered by either labor or COVID-19 at this time.
- Issuance of hay and straw phytosanitary certificates and exports are similar to 2020.
- **Smoke Management Program**
  - Registration for the 2021 season is completed and the program is preparing for the July 6th start date for the season.
- **Weights and Measures Program** (\* Denotes 4rd Quarter 2020 for comparison)
  - 1st Quarter Q1, 12,247 inspections completed, 19% of our caseload.
    - To complete 100% of our 65,640 device inspections in 2021 we need to complete inspections at a pace of 5,470 per month.
    - In Q1 our pace was 4,082 devices per month. This is 77% of our 5-year Q1 average pace of 5,303 inspections per month. At the current pace we would complete approximately 75% of our annual inspection workload by year end. The drop is attributed to COVID-19 (which has slowed down our inspection pace), 2 vacant inspector positions, and 1 inspector is on extended leave.
  - W&M finished the initial work on a new case management system for complaints. Work has begun on implementing it into our daily work.
  - W&M deployed a newly designed bulk fuel testing truck in Q1. Work has begun on a new weight cart which is expected to be used primarily to test livestock scales.
- **Metrology Lab**
  - During Q1 2021, the ODA Metrology Lab completed 49 calibration work-orders for the weights and measures program, private industry, and other state metrology labs generating \$26,322 (\*\$37,704) in revenue.
  - We are currently working on establishing a price agreement through the competitive bid process as a tool to help replace some of the aging measurement equipment in the metrology laboratory.
- **Motor Fuel Quality Program**
  - For Q1 2021, Field Inspectors conducted the following motor fuel quality tests:
    - 686 (\*245) motor fuel quality screenings with 7 (\*7) failed screens. All failed screens passed confirmation testing.
    - 1,274 (\*667) fuel storage tanks screened with 18 (\*18) screens showing excessive water in the tanks
- **County of Origin Labeling Program (COOL)**
  - Inspections were suspended for 2020 (citing COVID) and are expected to resume in 2021. ODA is looking at renewing the 5-year cooperative agreement between ODA and USDA in order to continue performing these inspections into the future.

## Natural Resource Programs

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- **Process management**
  - Our process management system buildout continues and we are currently developing performance metrics for our licensing, permitting, and registration processes. Our next quarterly business review will include the first quarter's worth of data for two customer service-related metrics, which are our streamlined incoming complaint process and public record request fulfillment timeframes.

The following updates are organized by operating process in our management system and cover all NRPA programs.

- **Fostering collaboration**
  - Ag Water Quality Program staff reached out to Soil and Water Conservation Districts and prepared options for discussion at the March 24, 2021 Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting regarding funding for Focus Areas for the 2021-2023 biennium. The Commission recommended that Focus Areas become an optional reporting task for the 21-23 biennium as part of SWCDs' capacity funding agreements.

- **Permits, Registrations, and Notifications**

- The CAFO program continues to work with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to prepare an updated MOU to present to the Environmental Quality Commission in July, as well as a renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general permit to release for public comment later this year. In addition, the program is reviewing a permit application for a proposed poultry facility in Scio that has been the subject of extensive public interest and is also fielding questions about a possible similar facility in Marion County (no application has been received for a new Marion County facility).
- The Pesticides Program registered approximately 2,000 disinfectants (pesticide products) which provide claims to control COVID-19, in 2020 and 2021. This represents a 14 percent increase in the number of revised and new registrations. The Ag Water Quality Program approved the first notice under the Ag Channel Drainage Maintenance program, working closely with the Department of State Lands and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- The Fertilizer Program is recruiting interested persons for two positions on the Fertilizer Research Committee. One open position is for an industry representative and one position is for a public member. Positions advertised on ODA social media, ODA web site and through the citizen advocate/tribal liaison.

- **Providing Compliance and Technical Assistance**

- Pesticides Program staff created a video training that fulfills the requirements of training for mixers and loaders under the recently adopted chlorpyrifos rule. The video is available online from the Pesticides Program in both English and in Spanish. In addition, staff created a chlorpyrifos FAQ and timeline for growers and other pesticide users. Program staff have also delivered a variety of trainings this winter at the invitation of pesticide continuing education course presenters. Training included strategies to keep pesticides out of water, training for schools on Oregon's Integrated Pest Management law, and drift prevention.

- **Conducting Inspections, Investigations & Enforcement**

- The Pesticides Program investigated several high-profile cases this quarter, including a case involving a well-known sequoia tree within the City of Portland and a case involving bee deaths in southern Oregon. In addition, multiple programs collaborated to investigate a complaint alleging pesticide runoff from legally conducted pesticide applications near Salem.

- **Providing Customer Support and Resolving Inquiries**

- The Pesticides Analytical and Response Center Board held an after-action review of last summer's clopyralid investigations during its March 17, 2021 meeting. Agency partner staff who collaborated on the investigation participated, as did a citizen who was affected by contaminated compost.

## **Plant Protection & Conservation Programs**

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- Key issue is securing continuous and stable funding for our invasive species programs, in particular for the largest Japanese beetle eradication project in Oregon's history and important noxious weed projects considering the financial constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM)**
  - We are about half way through with this year's Japanese beetle eradication efforts in NW Portland. More eradications are in progress at Portland International Airport and a few other sites in the larger Portland area. This is a busy JB year, again.
  - Delimitation survey activities for the Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) catch on Sauvie Island will start at the end of May.
- **Noxious Weed Control Program**
  - Most of our weed staff continue working for the Hemp Program, but over this season we will transition back to noxious weed work. Preparations for several federal and also state noxious weed projects have started.
  - Our noxious weed biocontrol program continues working on release of important biocontrol agents against the Japanese knotweed and the gorse, mostly with support of federal funds.

- **Nursery and Christmas Tree Program**
  - We are re-hiring for two recent retirements in our Nursery Program and re-filling the Nursery lead position.
  - A national trace-call was initiated associated with *P. ramorum* infested plants shipped to 30+ states from an Oregon nursery.
- **Hemp Program**
  - The 2021 Hemp season has seen numbers slowly increasing. More than 700 applications have been registered so far. Overall, numbers are at about 50% of last year's numbers.
  - Our Hemp enforcement and inspection team is gearing up to address multiple complaints about illegal hemp or marijuana grow operations from southern Oregon.
- **Native Plant Conservation Program**
  - We hired Danielle Marshall as the new biology conservationist to join our Native Plant Conservation Program. Jordan Brown and Danielle have started working on *Fritellaria* projects.
- **Oregon Invasive Species Council**
  - Several virtual council meetings have been held this year. ODA and OISC are working on a MOU to clearly define ODA's role as the fiscal agency for OISC

### **Administration/Special Projects**

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- **Canola in the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD)**
  - ODA permitted an additional 197 acres for spring planted canola in the WVPD bringing the total for the 2021 crop year to 494 of the 500 allowed acres. Contact: Sunny Summers
- **Wolf Grant Program**
  - ODA met the federal deadline of March 5th for upcoming grant applications. We will know in the fall if those applications were successful. ODA also opened up the application period for the counties and received applications from 11 counties and was able to award \$130,164 from both state and federal dollars. Contact: Jonathan Sandau